The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Science, when well digested, is nothing but good sense and reason.—Stanislaus.

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Wagner Act Necessary for Workers' Economic Liberty, Prof. Levin Says

Wayne University Sociology Head Declares Measure Is Essential to Secure Bargaining Equality with Employers.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A profound analysis of the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Law has convinced Prof. Samuel M. Levin, head of the Sociology Department of Wayne University, that it is absolutely necessary to secure a measure of equality in collective bargaining with employers and is therefore a fundamental element of the workers' struggle for economic freedom.

Prof. Levin made his conclusions public in an address on "The Industrial Background of the National Labor Relations Act" before a two-day conference on the Act held recently in Detroit, Mich., under the auspices of the Educational Committee of the Michigan State Federation of Labor and the Wayne County Federation of Labor together with the Detroit District Council of the United Automobile Workers of America. The institute was the second of a series on the Labor Act to be held under the general auspices of the Workers Education Bureau with the cooperation of the American Federation of Labor.

The following is a synopsis of Prof. Levin's address:

The National Labor Relations Act is a landmark in the development of the labor code. The new law is a response to economic needs. Our industrial society has been transformed by the impact of a variety of industrial developments and a succession of economic changes: e. g., business combinations, concentration of economic power, the continued mechanization of industry, mass production, etc. These have greatly enhanced the power of the employing group in comparison with labor. Thus there is need for an adjustment to rectify existing inequalities or disparities.

Such adjustments have taken place in the past, as shown by the Interstate Commerce Act, the Workmen's Compensation Laws, the Securities Act, etc. The Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 came into being because of the growing size and power of railroads, and the need to protect shippers and the general public against unfair practices, such as rebates, discrimination, oppressive rates, or pooling agreements.

Right to Organize Nullified

The right of labor to organize with the accompanying use of concerted bargaining is nothing more than a paper right so long as employers can practically nullify it by injunctions, yellow dog contracts, the vicious maneuvering of industrial spies, the setting up of company dominated unions, or discrimination against laborers joining a union or organizing for collective bargaining.

Neither organization nor collective bargaining is new in our history. Collective bargaining in the United States dates back to 1799, period when economic life was much simpler than at present and when differences were less marked.

War Labor Board Cited

The program of the War Labor Conference Board, which established rules of the game for the capital-labor relations during the war, included the following statement with regard to the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively through chosen representatives: "This right shall not be denied, abridged, or interfered with by the employers in any manner whatsoever." Section 7 of the Act is also an effort to convert this declaration into a reality, into something with a well-defined legal sanction. Certain practices which in the past have served to defeat or nullify the efforts of various labor groups to organize and bargain collectively are now stigmatized as unfair and as constituting the ground for charges with the Labor Relations Board or its regional representatives.

"The need for the new kind of set-up to promote the adjustment of relations between employers and workers is accentuated by the course of recent economic changes and trends.

Inequality of Bargaining Power

1. The long-existing inequality of bargaining power between employers and workers is no doubt the main cause of inequality. It is rather that inequality is on the increase, as a result of the onward march of the organization movement, the concentration of economic power, the consolidation of industrial processes, and the growth of the power of finance capital in the United States. Thus as Prof. Gardiner C. Means, who made a careful study of the growth of giant industrial combinations in our economic system, wrote: "Economists must think to a very large extent in terms of administered prices than in terms of the multiplicity of small competing elements of private enterprise."

Concentration of Capital

2. Whereas, in the post-war period, concentration of capital went on the increase, the labor organization movement was losing ground. Membership of all unions in 1919 was 5,100,000. In 1929 it had dropped to 4,831,000. There were further losses between 1930 and 1933. Thus American business, only slightly hampered by labor, had its day in court. Did it carry out its mission? Did it transport us to the new world that Herbert Thorpe of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce was dreaming of in 1928?

Depression Maladjustments

3. The aims of organized labor must be visioned against the background of the recent dislocation and maladjustment, viz., the decline of agriculture, collapse of banking, the investment scandals, unprecedented unemployment, and the web of complications in relief, wages, income, credit, foreign trade, relief, etc. Some of these maladjustments are still uncured, and it is questionable as to whether capital without the unchecked cooperation of labor can take care of them.

Labor's Reserves Wasted

4. The waste of labor's reserves of trade insight, technical knowledge, and service is an example of unpardonable shortsightedness and unpardonable blundering. So long as it continues, business will find itself walking upon a snare. The potentialities of labor for a better ordering of economic activity are of crucial importance to all parties, to capital and the public as well as to workers.

5. The evils resulting from a denial of labor's right to organize are many. The economic loss due to strikes is only a part of the harm done. There are other things to consider, e. g., the loss of cooperation and of labor's resources for helpful counsel and solution of industrial problems; the intensification of conditions that make for economic disorganization; the disposition to sporadic violence; the absence of a needed check to the kind of economic adventuring that has brought so much loss and suffering to the people of this country; the continued use of spies, private guards, constabulary; the absence of necessary basis for labor discipline, education, enlargement through social intercourse; etc.

Industrial Democracy

6. Industrial absolutism is a term used by Mr. Brandeis in his testimony before the Industrial Commission of 1916 to describe what President Roosevelt a few days ago called economic autocracy. The converse of industrial absolutism is industrial democracy. Mr. Brandeis pointed out that the right which we must seek is the recognition of industrial democracy" and that means that the problems are no longer the problems of the employer. This is in agreement with the views of other leading thinkers, such as Dr. C. H. Cooley, one of the leaders of sociological thought in the country, who wrote more than a score of years ago: "Self-assertion through voluntary organization is of the essence of democracy." He also said that freedom is impossible without organization.

Refuses Industrial Relations Principles

"The National Labor Relations Act," Prof. Levin concluded, "is a forward step in the direction of the elaboration of our principles of industrial relations. Not the least advantages is the fact that it encourages methods in industry as shown by facts brought to light in the Greyhound Lines, the Fruehauf Trailer Company and the Brown Shoe Company cases.

"It was Emerson who said: The age of the quadruped is to go out—the age of the brain and the heart is to come in.' We have had too much of the quadruped spirit in the industrial field. It is time for the new age to come in—that of the brain and the heart."

JAMES WILSON NAMED OFFICIAL OF I. L. O.

Former A. F. of L. Vice President Made Executive Assistant of Geneva Organization.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Harold Butler, director of the International Labor Office at Geneva, Switzerland, announces the appointment of James Wilson, former vice president of the American Federation of Labor and at present a member of the City Council at Cincinnati, Ohio, as executive assistant of the I. L. O.

Mr. Wilson has had a long career in the American labor movement. He was general president of the Pattern Makers' League of North America from 1902 to 1934, a vice president of the American Federation of Labor and a member of its Executive Council from 1924 to 1934, and fraternal delegate from the A. F. of L. to the British Trades Union Congress in 1906.

He served on the City Charter Commission of Cincinnati for two terms and has been a member of the City Council of Cincinnati since 1934.

He was sent by President Wilson to Europe as chairman of the Labor Mission to Great Britain and France in March, 1918, and as chairman of the Labor Mission to Italy in August, 1918. He was named by President Roosevelt as adviser to the World Monetary and Economic Conference at London in 1933, and was the first labor representative of the United States on the governing body of the International Labor Office in February, 1935.

He has been a member of the Public Works Administration board of review since 1933 and a member of the Works Progress Administration labor board of review from 1935 to the present time.

It was announced that Mr. Wilson's duties as executive assistant of the I. L. O. will permit him to spend a portion of each year in the United States.

A. F. OF L. CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN TAMPA

By A. F. of L. News Service.

In view of the fact that the authorities of Tampa, Fla., appear to be diligently prosecuting the men who are alleged to have tarred and feathered three organizers in that city, two of whom died from the injuries, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, announced that in all probability the Federation's 1936 convention would be held in Tampa in accordance with the original plan.

When the mobbing of the three men took place the Executive Council did have the convention withdrawn from Tampa unless the authorities of that city and the United States dates back to 1799, period when economic life was much simpler than at present and when differences were less marked.

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AFL COUNCIL ASKS SENATOR NORRIS TO STAY IN SENATE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, in session meeting held in Miami, Fla., adopted a resolution urgently requesting Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska not to retire from the United States Senate at the expiration of his present term.

The resolution expressed the hope that he would "indicate his willingness to continue his career as Senator from Nebraska so that the masses of the people of this country will be the continuing beneficiaries of his broad and sympathetic statesmanship."

SLEEPING CAR PORTERS GET NATIONAL CHARTER

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and Maids was granted a charter as a national and international union by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent meeting held in Miami, Fla.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT POSTPONED BY AFL COUNCIL

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Final consideration of organized labor's proposal to amend the United States Constitution so that Congress would have authority to enact labor laws for the nation was postponed by the recent meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor until its Spring session. The Council authorized William Green, president of the A. F. of L., to formulate the amendment and present it to the Congress of the United States.

The 1935 convention of the Federation directed the Council to have an amendment prepared for the purpose to overcome the limitations which the Supreme Court of the United States put on the decision declaring the National Industrial Recovery Act and the fair practice codes established under it unconstitutional, said the Constitution imposed on Congress.

The Council discussed at length the report on the subject made by Mr. Green, and asked him to submit all the data he had to the other Council members for their thorough study so that the amendment would be ready for the meeting next Spring.

SEAMEN REVOKE PACIFIC SAILORS UNION CHARTER

International Claims Its Constitution and Law Were Violated by Pacific Coast Unit.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS.)—After a thorough discussion extending over a number of days, the convention of the International Seamen's Union of America, in session here, revoked the charter of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific.

This action followed the convention's decree ordering the Pacific Coast locals of the International to withdraw from the Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast and to remain out until the Federation's policies and relations with trade agreements were harmonized with those of the Seamen's Union and the American Federation of Labor.

Three Main Charges Listed

Alleged violation of the constitution and laws of the International Union were the main reasons for the charter revocation. The convention listed the following three charges:

"1. Violation of Article 1, Section 2 of the International Constitution, which prohibits membership to men who are members of or advocating principles and practices of any organization or any organization hostile to the International Seamen's Union of America, its aims and purposes.

"2. Refusing to live up to awards and agreements underwritten by the International Seamen's Union of America.

"3. Refusing to reinstate Paul Scharrenberg, a member of said Sailors' Union of the Pacific, whose expulsion was appealed to the convention, as is provided in Article 17, and was held to be illegal and the verdict null and void."

The report adopted by the convention declared "there have been various other violations of the constitution and the law," but that in these three cases the efforts of Secretary-Treasurer Olander, acting under instructions from the Executive Board of the International, to have the organization live by the constitution and the law were without avail.

Agreement Was Violated

The report also directed attention to the "fact that notwithstanding a referendum vote of the membership of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific to continue the award and agreement with the Shipowners' Association of the Pacific Coast and to arbitrate any difference, this referendum by the rank and file was recently nullified by the comparatively few members attending the headquarters meeting. This nullifying act has resulted in tying up steamschooners under the guise of job action."

New Coast Unit Planned

In order to rebuild its strength on the Pacific Coast, the convention ordered an organization campaign in that region. It also instructed the Executive Board "to take whatever steps may be deemed necessary to safeguard and protect our jurisdiction on the Pacific Coast." To carry out this plan the convention specifically directed the Executive Board:

"1. To fully inform our members on the Pacific Coast of the disloyal elements which have finally compelled drastic action by this convention.

"2. To organize the loyal members into a District Union that will conform to the constitution and law of the International Seamen's Union of America."

FISHER FLOUR MILL STRIKE ADJUSTED BY LABOR BOARD

Seattle A. F. of L. Unions Win Favorable Settlement Terms.

Seattle, Wash. (AFLNS).—Charles W. Hope, regional director here of the National Labor Relations Board, announced the settlement of the strike against the Fisher Flouring Mills Company which was called last October by Federal Labor Union 19169, representing the production employes, and the Weighers, Warehousemen and Cereal Workers' Local of the International Longshoremen's Association. The unions filed a complaint against the company with the Labor Board charging the concern with violating the National Labor Relations Act by refusal to reinstate against union members and refusal to recognize the two locals as representatives of the Union of the employes. It was also charged that the company dominated an organization known as the Plant Employes' Association, which also intervened in the hearings held by the Board.

Under the strike settlement agreement the company promised to reinstate all discharged workers and grant seniority rights. A union recognition attachment to the agreement signed was included in the agreement. It was stated that the claim of the Plant Employes' Association to represent the workers was disallowed in the settlement.

Trial Examiner Harry Hazel, who conducted the hearing on the charges for the Labor Board, submitted an immediate report finding the company guilty of violating the Labor Act and made recommendations for affirmative action in which the company might bring itself into conformity with the law. The strike settlement agreement was signed two days after the issuance of the report.

FARMERS' UNION SECURES UNION LABOR IN FACTORY

Mobilization of Members' Buying Power Persuades Birmingham Overall Plant to Recognize Organized Labor — Reciprocal Buying Agreement With Union Label Trades Department Works Fine.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The practical results of an alliance between organized workers and organized farmers to patronize each other to the mutual benefit of both were demonstrated by the recent organization of a Birmingham overall factory as the result of the reciprocal agreement between the National Farmers' Union and the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

The agreement provides that members of the Farmers' Union will buy goods and services only from merchants that display the union label, shop card and button and that members of labor unions will buy only from merchants that likewise display the Farmers' Union shop card and label.

An account of the agreement in action is given in the following report of the Farmers' Union:

Farmers Buying Power Wins

"In Birmingham an overall factory refused to recognize the union workers. The union officials of other cities urged the management to recognize the union, stating that if they did not recognize the union, all organized workers numbering about 100,000 men and women would refuse to buy overalls. The officers of the company laughed at them, saying that it would not affect the overall factory, that their overalls were purchased by farmers.

"About that time all the members of the Farmers' Union began to demand union-made goods of their merchants. The merchants, in turn, notified salesmen of this overall factory that they could no longer sell their overalls to farmer customers without the union label.

"With the farmers refusing to buy and industrial labor refusing to buy, there was no one to whom to sell and that overall factory, that had been holding out for months, immediately visited the union committee and signed a contract agreeable to the union."

M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department, said: "This illustration given by the Birmingham overall factory case is proof of the results that can be obtained through united action of farmers and workers," adding: "The importance and possibilities for good to be accomplished by the agreement between the Farmers' Union and the Department are beyond the power of our imagination."

19 CONSTITUTION TALKS LISTED FOR BROADCASTS

"Liberals" and "Conservatives" Go On Air For a Five-Months' Discussion of Constitutional Theories and Rights.

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—College professors, editors, lawyers, publicists, authors, legislators and government officials will participate in 19 nation-wide broadcasts on "The Constitution in the Twentieth Century." The broadcasts are sponsored by the American Academy of Political and Social Science in cooperation with the Committee on Civic Education by Radio and the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education.

The program will be presented over a network of the National Broadcasting Company every Tuesday evening for 15 weeks from February 4 through June 9 from 7:45 to 8 o'clock P. M., Eastern Standard Time. Beginning April 28, Eastern Daylight Saving Time will be used.

It is planned to present the views of all shades of opinion.

The following is the schedule for February:

February 4.—"The Constitution As a Stabilizing Factor in American Life," David P. Barrows, Professor of Political Science; former President, University of California.

February 11.—"Curbing the Court," Edward S. Corwin, Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton University; former President, American Political Science Association.

February 18.—"Property Rights As Obstacles to Progress," Francis W. Coker, Professor of Political Science, Yale University; Past President, American Political Science Association.

February 25.—"The Constitution As the Guardian of Property Rights," Wilbur Lamoreaux Cummon, Assistant U. S. Attorney General.

LEGAL DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED BY AFL COUNCIL

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor gave consideration at its recent meeting in Miami, Fla., to the establishment of a Legal Defense Department in the A. F. of L. and instructed William Green, president of the Federation, to submit data concerning the cost of the proposed plan at the May meeting of the Council. The 1935 convention of the Federation endorsed the establishment of such a department, the purpose of which would be to assist smaller trade unions in defending their legal rights before the courts and commissions charged with the enforcement of both Federal and State laws.

BRITISH SOCIALIST RULE POSSIBLE, MARQUIS SAYS

In an address before the Canadian Club at Toronto, Canada, the Marquis of Lothian said there seemed to him a strong probability that within the next few years there would be a Socialist Government in Great Britain. The only negative element in the situation, was the extreme sections of the left wing in the Labor Party. He thought the extremists would be kept under control.

"Today in England," the Marquis declared, "owing to the gradual disappearance of the Liberal Party, the issue is becoming more and more between property on the one side and non-property on the other."

PICKET RIGHT UPHELD BY WASHINGTON COURT

Judge Sutton of Bremerton Dismisses Suit for Injunction Against Retail Clerks' Association.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Bremerton, Wash.—An important victory for labor in the State of Washington was won here when Superior Judge John Sutton refused to issue a permanent injunction asked by the Benjamin Franklin Stores, Inc., restraining the Retail Clerks' Association from further picketing of the company's Pacific Avenue store in Bremerton. He also dismissed the company's plaintiff $2,000 damages they claimed as losses sustained by picketing.

In discussing the conditions leading up to the controversy Judge Sutton said the testimony revealed that the wages paid the employes were far above the union scale and that they were "compelled to work at best an average of 10 hours per day and 60 hours per week," which were "far more than the union hours and much more than the hours of work in other grocery stores in Bremerton." Furthermore, employes of the company" testified they had "protested against their wages and hours to no avail."

After quoting from the Washington statute the provision which bars the courts from granting restraining or permanent injunctions or prohibiting any person or persons, singly or in concert, from the exercise of, or the participation in, any lawful act, Judge Sutton said that according to the evidence "the picketing has been at all times peaceful and that in no way tended to cause violence or in any way interfere with ingress or egress to plaintiff's store," adding:

"It has always been the 'absolute right of every man, singly or in combination, to work for or deal with any other man or not as he sees fit. He may likewise advise his friends or the public to do the same. These rights may be exercised by associations of persons, so long as they have a proper and lawful motive to subserve. That labor organizations have the right to protect employes, have a proper and lawful interest, in attempting to better their terms and conditions of labor is well pointed out by Justice Taft in Steel Foundries Co. vs. Tri-City Central Trades Council, 257 U. S. 184.

"In accomplishing these ends, however, there must be no violence, actual intimidation, threats, fraud or malice, within the declaration of the Act in question.

"The great weight of authority, which I adopt as the minute, is that peaceful picketing is lawful.

"At any rate, with the great weight of authority in favor of peaceful picketing as lawful and the tendency, at least, in that direction of the latest cases from the Supreme Court, I am unable to see how the Act in question can be held to be unconstitutional. This action will therefore be dismissed, with costs to the defendant."

AFL PLANS AUTO WORKERS' UNION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A special organization campaign among automobile workers to increase union membership in the production groups was approved by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent meeting in Miami, Fla.

The International Union of Automobile Workers of America, which was granted an A. F. of L. charter last August, is to limit its efforts to enrolling production workers and to permit inside workers, office men and specialized crafts other than production units to join their own unions.

The Executive Council decided to bring to an end its provisional control over the International Workers' International Union and to call a convention not later than April 30 when the members of the union will elect their own officers.

FEDERAL JUDGE ENJOINS LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Chicago, Ill (AFLNS).—A temporary injunction was issued here by Federal Judge J. H. Wilkerson restraining the National Labor Relations Board from holding an election in the employes of Clayton Mark & Co., steel manufacturers, to choose a collective bargaining representation in accordance with the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act passed last year by the United States Congress. The suit, brought by the company, a company union and a number of employes, charged that the provision of the Labor Relations Act guaranteeing the right of employes to select their representative for collective bargaining was beyond the power of Congress to enact. Other provisions of the Act were also challenged.

Judge Wilkerson postponed passing on the constitutionality of the Act.

N. Y. UNION FIRM WILL MAKE POSTAL MESSENGER UNIFORMS

$80,000 Contract Is Given to A. Dubois & Son.

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—The Western Union Telegraph Company has contract for the manufacture of all uniforms worn by Postal messengers to the Dubois Manufacturing Company of Long Island City.

The transaction will involve a total payroll of $80,000. It is understood that each garment will carry the union label.

COMMERCIAL WIRE MEN JOIN UNION LABEL TRADES DEPT.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The Commercial Telegraphers' Union of North America has become an affiliate of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, according to an announcement at the Department's headquarters in the A. F. of L. Building here.

Union telegraphers have the right to wear a union button and persons sending messages are entitled to ask that they be transmitted by operators wearing the union button.

Statement Issued by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor Relative to the Committee for Industrial Organization.

At the meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor held at Miami, Fla., beginning January 15, 1936, careful thought and consideration was given to the formation and activities of the Committee for Industrial Organization, which was formed at Washington, D. C., on November 10, 1935.

All available facts and information, correspondence, printed publications and pamphlets relating to the organization, policies and procedure of the Committee for Industrial Organization were examined and considered, and without forming a definite opinion regarding the character, purpose and objective of the Committee for Industrial Organization, the members of the Executive Council nevertheless felt that there is a growing opposition among an ever increasing number of affiliated unions and those outside of the labor movement that the activities of this Committee constitute a challenge to the supremacy of the American Federation of Labor and will ultimately become dual in purpose and character to the American Federation of Labor.

The Executive Council, while freely recognizing the right of officers and members of organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to entertain and express their own opinions regarding organization and administrative policies which should be pursued, insists that policies adopted at conventions of the American Federation of Labor should be respected, observed and carried out. Any other procedure must inevitably lead to internal strife, discord and division within the ranks of organized labor.

It is the opinion of the Executive Council that the Committee for Industrial Organization should be immediately dissolved, that it should cease to function as assembled reports, facts and information indicate, and that the officers of the several organizations which constitute the Committee for Industrial Organization cooperate fully with the Executive Council in the application and execution of the organization policies adopted by an overwhelming majority of the duly accredited delegates who were in attendance at the convention of the American Federation of Labor held in Atlantic City, N. J., from October 1 to 19, 1935.

In order to achieve this purpose and to prevent confusion, division and discord within the ranks of organized labor, the Executive Council authorizes a committee of its members to meet and confer with representatives of the organizations which make up the Committee for Industrial Organization, and to present to them the decisions and the point of view entertained and expressed by members of the Executive Council who attended the Miami meeting.

The Executive Council directs that conferences, as herein referred to, be held at the earliest date possible and that said committees report the results of the conferences, together with such recommendations as it may decide to offer, to the next meeting of the Executive Council.

House Labor Committee Opens Hearings On Bill to Regulate Textile Industry

Ellenbogen Measure Guarantees Right to Organize, Fixes Minimum Wages and Maximum Hours.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives, whose chairman is William P. Connery, Jr., of Massachusetts, began hearings on the bill, sponsored by Representative Ellenbogen of Pennsylvania, to rehabilitate and stabilize labor conditions in the textile industry." The law would be administered by a National Textile Commission.

The measure provides for a system of licensing textile manufacturers engaged in interstate commerce with the stipulation that every textile product that the wages paid "common or unskilled labor" shall be not less than $15 per week of 35 hours, and that no clerical office employe shall be paid less than $15 per week of 40 hours. Minimum wages for semi-skilled and skilled workers would be determined by the National Textile Commission after thorough investigation.

In regard to hours of labor the bill prescribes a maximum 35-hour week for general employes and a 40-hour week for clerical and office workers. Managerial and emergency employes are exempted from the hours rules.

Relative to the right of workers to organize in bona fide unions and choose representatives for collective bargaining, the bill includes the provisions of the Wagner-Connery Labor Relations Act.

At the opening hearings the measure was supported by Thomas F. McMahon, international president of the United Textile Workers of America, and by Francis J. Gorman, Thomas F. Kelly and John A. Peel, vice presidents of that organization. They declared the textile employe's had been guilty of sabotage of their own industry through underpricing and overproduction. F. Meadows, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, told the committee the Federation is cooperating with the United Textile Workers' Union in advocacy of the bill.

State officials who supported the bill included Lieut.-Gov. Joseph L. Hurley of Massachusetts, and William J. Fitzgerald, Deputy Commissioner of Labor of Connecticut.

Lieut.-Gov. Hurley declared that new kind of national legislation is necessary to secure proper control of working conditions in the textile industry.

He pointed out that Massachusetts has been a pioneer in the field of progressive legislation designed to protect the interest of the workers, failure of other textile States to enact similar laws nullifies the efforts made in Massachusetts at a great disadvantage.

Federal Probe of Strike and Lockout Schemes Is Urged by Seamen's Union

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The thirty-third convention of the International Seamen's Union of America, in session here, adopted a resolution urging an investigation by the Federal Government of the "unscrupulous propaganda and machinations" during the past season of employers in the nature of certain persons and groups, known and unknown, for the purpose of creating general strike of seamen or a general lockout by shipowners on the Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf coasts and on the Great Lakes without the knowledge or consent of the membership and regardless of seafarers or shipowners."

The resolution declared that the Government and those who are the responsible parties in the strike and lockout conspiracy, "expose them to public view and take such other action in relation thereto as may be necessary in the interests of the American Merchant Marine," and instructed all officers and members of the Seamen's Union "to make available to the Federal Government all information they may have in relation to the subject matter of this resolution."

In justification of its demand for a Federal investigation the convention asserted that the "United States is the only maritime nation which recognizes seamen as free men in relation to their labor contracts, and emphasized the provisions in the law which prohibits all the maritime nations which stipulate that seamen leaving their employment during the term of their engagement are subject to imprisonment for contract violation.

The strike and lockout propaganda and conspiracy, the convention said, "are plainly intended to mislead American seamen of all grades into activities causing the entire shipping public impression that as a class they are irresponsible and unreliable, that they are trade unions are incapable of carrying out agreements and voluntary arbitration awards and that they cannot be trusted to properly exercise the freedom obtained through the passage of the Seamen's Act only 20 years ago, thus strengthening the hands of the enemies of human liberty who seek a restoration of the former imprisonment laws against seafarers."

The convention expressed the belief that the lockout and strike propaganda and manipulations are the result of a "deliberate conspiracy unlawful in its purposes and effect" which jeopardized both the "public interest" and the "liberty of the seamen," and instructed Secretary-Treasurer Victor Olander to bring the investigation resolution "to the attention of the President and the Congress of the United States without delay."

ELECTRICAL UNION GIVEN RADIO LABOR JURISDICTION

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was granted jurisdiction over radio workers by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at its recent meeting in Miami, Fla.

It was reported that the Brotherhood had amended its charter so as to receive the radio workers as a separate division under a newly formed membership class, with dues and benefits varying from those of journeymen electricians.

CIGARETTE TAX CUT ASKED, BY AFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A resolution recommending that Congress make a reduction in the Federal tax on 15-cent cigarettes from the present rate of $3 a thousand cigarettes to $2.75 was adopted by the recent meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor in Miami, Fla.

SEAMEN'S UNION VISIONS SEA-WORKERS' FEDERATION

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The principle of a national federation of unions of all sea-going workers was approved by the convention of the International Seamen's Union of America, in session here.

The convention named Paul Scharrenberg of San Francisco chairman of a special committee to start negotiations along this line with committees from the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association and the Masters, Mates and Pilots' Union.

As a basis for the new grouping the convention gave the committee the following instructions:

1. That a federation should be formed to deal "cooperatively" with mutual problems.

2. That the rights of none of the unions involved should be abridged by a federation agreement.

4. That the National Railway Labor Executives' Association and other jurisdiction plans should be studied carefully in planning the federation's organization.